various nationalised banks spread over one kilometre area in Parliament Street, New Delhi. Eight branches were found to be extending the facility. Two branches were not designated branches (non currency chests). As regards the remaining one branch, the matter has been suitably taken up with the Controlling Authorities concerned.

Loans to farmers in Andhra Pradesh

2654. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government to issue instructions to the commercial banks to extend loans to farmers for taking up fresh crops;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has requested a credit flow in 2006-07 of Rs. 13,817.78 crores to 16 districts identified by Ministry of Agriculture which have reported maximum number of suicides by farmers.

Autonomy to NABARD

2655. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with Government seeking full operational autonomy to NABARD;

(b) if so, any action initiated on that proposal;

(c) whether the NABARD employees association has submitted any alternative organizational study reports to the management; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government of India has provided operational autonomy to NABARD by amending the relevant sections of the NABARD Act, 1981 in the year 2000. No proposal is

pending with Government seeking operational autonomy to NABARD. However, in response to a reference from Government of India regarding autonomy to Financial Institutions (FIs), NABARD has submitted its views for further autonomy. The operational autonomy to NABARD is available subject to consultations/approval with RBI and Government of India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The report and the note submitted by All India NABARD Employees Association(AINEA) focus on the following:—

* Need for restoration of contributions to National Rural Credit (NRC) LTO Fund by RBI.
* Concessional rate of interest on loans to Small Farmers/Marginal Farmers/Landless farmers
* Enhancing the General Line of Credit (GLC) limit from RBI.
* NABARD's income not to be taxed.
* Alternate Rural Financing Structure involving Self Help Groups (SHGs).
* Invest in Research & Development programmes which can make farming profitable and conducive to Indian agriculture.
* Selection of one Cooperative Bank or RRB branch in each district and supporting them to become model retail banking outlets in rural areas.
* NABARD not to venture into retail banking.
* Value addition for rural produce —providing technical and financial support.

The suggestions made in the report/notes have already been considered, wherever possible.

Share of foreign investors in banks

3656. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of foreign investors in nationalized banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that share holding by the foreign investors is on increasing trend; and

(c) if so, the details of foreign investors' share of paid up capital in each nationalised Indian bank?